

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

SAM BENFORD,) Case No. CV 24-6408 FMO (PDx)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
HARLEN LEWIS MOEN, et al.,) **ORDER DISMISSING ACTION WITHOUT
PREJUDICE**
Defendants.)

On August 12, 2024, the court issued its Standing Order Re: Disability Cases (see Dkt. 10, Court’s Order of August 12, 2024), which ordered plaintiff to file a motion for default judgment no later than seven calendar days after default is entered by the Clerk. (Id. at 3). The court admonished plaintiff that “failure to file a motion for default judgment within seven [] days of entry of default by the Clerk shall result in the dismissal of (1) the action and/or (2) the defendant against whom the motion for default judgment should have been filed.” (Id. at 4) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629-30, 82 S.Ct. 1386, 1388 (1962)).

Here, defendant MPN-14 Limited Partnership (“defendant”) was served with the summons and complaint on August 14, 2024, by substituted service.¹ (See Dkt. 11, Proof of Service).

²⁷ Plaintiff filed a notice of dismissal as to defendant Harlan Lewis Moen on September 23,
28 2024. (See Dkt. 14, Notice of Dismissal). Accordingly, defendant MPN-14 Limited Partnership
is the only remaining defendant in this action.

1 Accordingly, defendant's responsive pleading to the Complaint was due no later than September
2 16, 2024. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a) & 4(e)(1); Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 415.20. Defendant did not
3 answer the Complaint by this date, and on September 10, 2020, plaintiff filed a Request for Entry
4 of Default as to defendant. (See Dkt. 12, Request for Entry of Default ("Request"). The clerk
5 granted this Request on September 11, 2020. (See Dkt. 13, Default by Clerk). The clerk later
6 corrected the premature entry of default and reissued default on September 24, 2024. (See Dkt.
7 15, Default by Clerk; Dkt. 16, Notice of Clerical Error). Plaintiffs were required to file a Motion for
8 Default Judgment by October 1, 2024, (see Dkt. 10, Court's Order of August 12, 2024, at 3-4), but
9 no such motion has been filed as of the date of this Order. (See, generally, Dkt.).

10 A district court may dismiss an action for failure to prosecute or to comply with court orders.
11 Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); Link, 370 U.S. at 629-30, 82 S.Ct. at 1388 (authority to dismiss for failure
12 to prosecute necessary to avoid undue delay in disposing of cases and congestion in court
13 calendars); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992) (district court may dismiss
14 action for failure to comply with any court order). Dismissal, however, is a severe penalty and
15 should be imposed only after consideration of the relevant factors in favor of and against this
16 extreme remedy. Thompson v. Housing Auth. of Los Angeles, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir.1986).
17 These factors include: "(1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's
18 need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to defendants/respondents; (4) the availability
19 of less drastic alternatives; and (5) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits."
20 Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61); see
21 Applied Underwriters, Inc. v. Lichtenegger, 913 F.3d 884, 891 (9th Cir. 2019) ("By its plain text,
22 a Rule 41(b) dismissal . . . requires 'a court order' with which an offending plaintiff failed to
23 comply."). "Although it is preferred, it is not required that the district court make explicit findings
24 in order to show that it has considered these factors and [the Ninth Circuit] may review the record
25 independently to determine if the district court has abused its discretion." Ferdik, 963 F.2d at
26 1261.

27 Having considered the Pagtalunan factors, the court is persuaded that this action should
28 be dismissed for failure to comply with a court order and failure to prosecute. Plaintiff's failure to

1 file the motion to default judgment hinders the court's ability to move this case toward disposition
2 and indicates that plaintiff does not intend to litigate this action. In other words, plaintiff's
3 "noncompliance has caused [this] action to come to a complete halt, thereby allowing [him] to
4 control the pace of the docket rather than the Court." Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 990
5 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal quotation marks omitted). Further, plaintiff was warned that failure to file
6 a motion for default judgment would result in a dismissal of the action for lack of prosecution and
7 failure to comply with a court order. (See Dkt. 10, Court's Order of August 12, 2024, at 3-4); see
8 also Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262 ("[A] district court's warning to a party that his failure to obey the
9 court's order will result in dismissal can satisfy the consideration of alternatives requirement.")
10 (internal quotation marks omitted). Thus, having considered the Pagtalunan factors, the court is
11 persuaded that the instant action should be dismissed for failure to comply with a court order and
12 failure to prosecute.

13 Based on the foregoing, IT IS ORDERED that judgment be entered dismissing this action
14 without prejudice, for failure to prosecute and comply with the orders of the court.

15 Dated this 2nd day of October, 2024.

16 _____ /s/
17 Fernando M. Olguin
18 United States District Judge
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